

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the specification (translation) with the enclosed substitute specification. As required, both clean and marked-up versions are being submitted herewith. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Please replace the Abstract on page 21 of the specification (translation) with the following new Abstract:

A multilayer ceramic component includes a stack containing ceramic layers and electrode layers interspersed among the ceramic layers. The electrode layers contain copper and define first and second internal electrodes. First and second external contacts are on different sides of the stack. The first and second external contacts contain copper and are substantially perpendicular to the ceramic layers and electrode layers. The first internal electrode is connected to the first external contact and the second internal electrode is connected to the second external contact. The first and second internal electrodes overlap each other at a plane intersecting the stack. In areas adjacent to boundaries between the first and second external contacts and the ceramic layers, the first and second external contacts are not oxidized and material making-up the ceramic layers is not diminished. A bonding strength of the external contacts to the stack exceeds 50N.